(e) if so, details of specific steps taken to minimise such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Number of accidents during last ten months (January to October, 98)--Passenger 165

Others	177
Total	342

(b) There were 253 derailments during th. same period.

Passenger	97
Others	156
Total	253

(c) Losses due to these accidents are provisionaly estimated at Rs. 42.08 cr.

(d) Yes, sir.

(e) Steps taken to bring down the incidence of train accidents on Indian Railways are as under:—

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.

(iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.

(iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

(vi) Maintenance facilitis for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vii) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

(viii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(x) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

(xii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xiv) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety conciousness among the staff.

Security and amenities to the rail passengers

752. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleasd to state:

(a) whether the Railway Passengers' Amenities Committees have submitted a report recently;

(b) if so, their comments on passengers amenities and Government railway police; and

(c) the steps taken to provide better security and amenities to passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Inspection reports recorded by the Chairman and Members of the Passengers' Amenities

Committee after visiting some stations have been received.

(b) and (c) The deficiencies pointed out in the inspection reports regarding passenger amenities and suggestions for providing additional amenities have been sent to the railways concerned for taking remedial action. Maintenance of law and order on the railways is the responsibility of the State Governments. In the confernece of Home secretaries and heads of Government of Railway Police of States held on 28.8.1998, this subject was discussed and the State Governments were requested to ensure better security to the passengers.

Railway Division at Rourkela

753. MISS FARIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sambalpur and Khurda are the two Railway Divisions under the newly started East Coast Railway, with Bhubaneswar as its headquarters and there is no Railway Division from Chakradharpur to Sambalpur, if so, whether Government have any proposal to start a new Railway Division at Rourkela under the East Coast Railway; if so, the details thereof and the time schedule for starting of the Division; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Watair Divisions were proposed to be part of East Coast railway with headquarters at Bhubaneswar. The territorial jurisdiction of East Coast Railway has not yet been finalised. The issue was examined but it was not found feasible to set up a Divisional Office at Rourkela.

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of Narrow Gauge lines in Himachal Pradesh

754. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals for laying some rail lines and converting the narrow gauge lines into meter/broad gauge lines in Himachal Pradesh are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details of those railway projects; and

(c) the details of steps taken to approve those projects and to start construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposals for laying new lines and conversion of narrow gauge lines into broad gauge and the action taken to approve the projects is as under:

(i) Kalka-Parwanoo (New Line):

The work is included in the budget to be taken up after obtaining the clearance from Planning Commission. They have been approached and the work can be taken up once their approval has been recieved.

(ii) Bilaspur-Bhanupali-Beri (New Line):

The Survey for this line has been completed. The work is proposed to be carried out by the Satluj Valley Railway Corporation with participation by the Cement Factories, H.P. Govt. and Railways. The modalities for setting up the Corporation and for taking up the work are being coordinated by H.P. Government.

(iii) Pathankot-Joginder Nagar (Gauge Conversion)

Survey has been taken up and further consideration of the proposal will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

गांधीनगर में रेल टर्मिनल

755. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार अहमदाबाद रेलवे स्टेशन का यात्री-बोझ कम करने के लिए कुछ प्रमुख गाड़ियों और लोकल गाड़ियों का ठहराव गांधीनगर रेलवे स्टेशन में करवाने पर विचार कर रही है;